

## **Citizens Advisory Team to discuss Loop 202 this week**

[By Doug Murphy](#)

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The South Mountain Citizens Advisory Team meets Dec. 13, and topping the agenda is a discussion on the Gila River Indian Community's change of heart, granting permission for the Arizona Department of Transportation to enter tribal land to document the impact construction of the Loop 202 Freeway on Pecos Road would have.

The meeting will be held in the Student Union at South Mountain Community College, 7050 S. 24th St., beginning at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

Tribal leaders have stressed that they still oppose construction of the freeway on Gila River Indian Community land, but allowing state staff to inspect the acreage directly south of Pecos Road is considered a positive sign by people who oppose construction of the freeway on Pecos Road.

Also on the agenda is a discussion on commercial vehicles that may use the road as well as a general discussion on traffic studies and how construction of the freeway would impact other highways and surface streets.

The South Mountain Loop 202 Freeway was first proposed in 1985 to connect with Interstate 10 in Ahwatukee Foothills, travel west through a corner of South Mountain Park and then turn north to reconnect with I-10 around 55th Avenue.

In 2001 ADOT decided to update the plan and formed the Citizens Advisory Team to help provide local input.

A draft environmental impact statement is scheduled to be released sometime next year.

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